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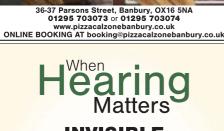
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Consultation on new laws to stop drunkenness and begging

WAR ON BAD BEHAVIOUR

NEW laws to prevent intimidating drunkenness, rough sleeping and begging have been proposed for Banbury town centre. A Public Spaces Protection Order

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) would aim to cut down on antisocial behaviour

social behaviour.

It follows an increase in complaints from people walking through the town centre over the last two years.

centre over the last two years.

The order would give police greater powers to arrest and fine people who they believe are drinking heavily or showing other articodal behaviour.

showing other anti-social behaviour. Cherwell District Council lead member for public protection Tony Ilott said issues were probably caused by about half a dozen people, and there was not "trouble around every corner".

Speaking at the council's executive meeting on Monday, he said: "Within the town centre area this order will prevent drunkenness, sleeping rough and begging. We have decided that action needs to be taken.

"There are some people who genuinely are not homeless. If we remove them, the ones in genuine need of help will become clear."

According to Thames Valley Police,

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

from July 2014 to February this year there have been $56\,\mathrm{reports}$ of begging in the town centre.

In the same time period there have been 57 reports of drinking and anti-social behaviour and six reports of people sleeping rough.

A report, compiled by the district council's safer communities manager Mike Grant, said areas around St Mary's Church had attracted late-night drinkers and rough sleepers.

It also said drunken men had been regularly seen by the Yorkshire Bank in High Street during the daytime. There has been evidence to suggest

There has been evidence to suggest drug abuse by rough sleepers, in the area of St Mary's Church, Peoples Park and the People's Church, due to the high number of needles being found lying around.

Councillor Nicholas Turner added:

Councillor Nicholas Turner added: "It does create an image of the town that can be intimidating for people."

PSPOs can be in force for up to three years, after which the order can be re-

Earlier this year an order was put in place for Oxford, which prohibits "aggressive" begging, cycling in Queen Street or Cornmarket Street outside of 6pm to 10am, remaining in a public tollet without reasonable excuse, failing to control dogs or not handing over alcohol when select do so by officers.

control dogs or not handing over alcohol when asked to do so by officers. This behaviour is punishable by a fixed penalty notice.

A five-week consultation will now be carried out, giving residents the chance to have their say on what activities should be covered by the order.

Details of the consultation are yet to be announced.



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Figures highlight satisfaction with railway services

CHILTERN Railways is the one of the country's leading train operators according to this year's Rail Passenger

The train operator was voted the top provider of services in Oxfordshire, with 91 per cent of passengers saying they were satisfied with their travel experience.

The figures, released by consumer watchdog Transport Focus, saw Chiltern ranked fourth in the country for overall experience.

Chiltern Railways managing director Dave Penney said: "We are committed to providing a high quality service for our

The operator also rated 49 per cent for and punctuality and 90 per cent for satisfaction with the station.

Last year Chiltern Railways opened Oxford Parkway station, the first new station near a major British city for more than a century.

Transport Focus chief executive Anthony Smith said from a national perspective passengers were in need of more reliable services.

He said: "Many passengers are feeling the strain.

"As passenger numbers rise and welcome investment is put in place some passengers are having a difficult time with delays and cancellations making journeys stressful. Simply getting on a

train has become a struggle for some."

Great Western Railway was rated 84 per cent for overall satisfaction.

This week, the company also revealed one of the new Hitachi electric trains which will come into service in 2017.

The train journeyed from Reading to London Paddington in order to mark 175 years of trains travelling on the Great Western Line.

Rain fails to dampen the spirits as supporters enjoy community get-together



THE rain may have come down but that didn't dampen the spirits of those who turned out for Banbury's Big Lunch at the

Live music, bouncy castles, face painting and food stalls all proved a hit for visitors to the annual community get-together.

It was organised by the Banbury Young Homelessness Project, aiming to get loca people outside and getting to know each other.
BYHP head of business Tim Tarby-

Donald said: "It was a little bit of a struggle with the rain showers but the day went very well.

"There were lots of families and kids

from the local area which was what we were looking for.

"We had lots of smiling faces and it proved to be a great afternoon."

More than £350 was raised through Saturday's event, and when totalled up the money will go to support BYHP services in Banbury. The charity supports vulnerable young people aged 13 to 25 to find a safe home, as well as offering advice and getting them involved in how local services are run.

Linda Slide, marketing assistant for BYHP, said: "There were lots of kids playing and many people stayed outside despite the rain.



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MP supports May in battle for leadership

'She is the best choice to steer us through complex negotiations'

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

VICTORIA Prentis has backed Theresa May in the race to become the new Conservative Party leader and Prime Minis-

The Banbury MP pledged her support to the current Home Secretary on Tuesday ahead of the first ballot vote to decide the new leader.

Mrs May has also received support from Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood and Henley MP John Howell, while Wantage MP Ed Vaizey is supporting

Michael Gove.

Speaking on Tuesday, Mrs
Prentis said: "We have an
exceptionally strong field of candidates in the Conserva-tive Party leadership election, all of whom have different skills and experience.

"It is important to remember we are not just choosing





Banbury MP Victoria Prentis, left, and Conservative Party leadership contender Theresa May

a leader, but also a Prime Minister, and it is with this in mind that I have decided to vote for Theresa May

"Brexit is going to happen. Theresa May has the right combination of principled toughness and attention to detail which makes her the best choice to steer us through complex negotia-tions and get a good deal for the UK. Her experience, temperament and negotiating skills are what we need.

"I have worked with The-

resa May over many years, both as a Government lawyer and now as a Member of Parliament. I trust and respect her

As a child Mrs May attended the since-closed Holton Park Girls' Grammar School, near Wheatley which included Venison House.

The school merged with The Shotover School in 1971 to become Wheatley Park School.

Blackwood pledged her support for Mrs May on

Twitter, posting: "@Theresa-May2016 the only candidate I trust in these turbulent times: grit, competence & compassion in equal meas-

Mrs May is the frontrunner for the leadership race, but has dismissed suggestions that she is taking "anything for granted."

Speaking on ITV's Peston on Sunday, she also dismissed suggestions one candidate should be given a clear run if they receive overwhelming support from Conservative MPs in the ear-

ly rounds of voting. She said: "I think it's important members have their opportunity to have their say and I think that what people want to hear is what the arguments are and people putting those arguments to-

Ballots will be held in the next few weeks to reduce the number of candidates down to two.

Members will vote for the final two candidates during July and August, and the new leader will be announced on September 9.

■ Tribute to Farage: Page 7

TV star Riley proves he's top dog for helping out

Labrador trained to assist osteoarthritis sufferer is featured on programme

Megan Archer marcher@nqo.com

DOG-LOVERS saw how a Banbury-trained Labrador has transformed the life of an os-

teoarthritis sufferer. Riley was the star of television show *The Dog Rescuers* on Tuesday and viewers saw him help pick items up from the floor, fetch clothing and push buttons.

He is an assistance dog for Ella Watson, of Middleton Cheney, who suffers from a number of conditions.

Riley came to Dogs for Good from the Lewknor Blue Cross res-cue centre in South Oxfordshire, having proved too boisterous for the family who owned him.

He was then trained at Dogs for Good's Banbury centre and boarded with volunteers in Bloxham, Greatworth and Bicester.

Ella applied for an assistance dog after her partner died.

She knew the constant presence of a skilled working dog to help her with everyday tasks would allow her son Tom to feel free to move out and get on with his own

Tom had cared for Ella since he

was 15 and while at university. Ella said: "Riley has turned my life around completely. He's my companion, but he's also made my life so much easier. He's a real character and brings me joy every

Chris Allen, Dogs for Good's dog supply manager, said: "As soon as we saw him we selected him





straight away. We knew he had the potential to be an assistance dog.
"We so pleased Riley has done

so well. Hopefully we'll be able to take on and train other rescue

dogs in the future."
Tim Sillis, centre manager at Blue Cross Lewknor, said: "Riley's story just goes to show what wonderful companions rescue animals can make and what a difference they can make to people's lives."

Dogs for Good has trained over 680 assistance dogs to date and currently has more than 280 working in England and Wales.

The Dog Rescuers is on Channel 5 and is presented by comedian and actor Alan Davies



Riley with Ella Watson and, inset, with TV comedian Alan Davies, presenter of The Dog Rescuers and one of his trainers in Banbury

Heads' warning over staffing crisis

OXFORDSHIRE'S education crisis will not be solved by more schools being swallowed up by large education chains, head teachers have warned.

Regional schools commissioner Martin Post – the man in charge of academies in Oxfordshire – said this week schools would find it easier to employ and keep teachers if they group together as part of multi academy trusts (MATs). It comes as teachers across the county

walked out on strike on Tuesday in a row over school funding.
Schools affected included Bishop

Loveday Church of England Primary School in Bodicote; Bloxham Church of England Primary School; Great Tew Primary School; Hanwell Fields Community School in Banbury; Hill View Primary School in Banbury and St John's Catholic Primary School, Banbury. Speaking at Oxfordshire County

Council's education scrutiny committee Mr Post said: "In a difficult environment MATs make recruiting less difficult.
"I had a meeting the other day and one

of the speakers was from a primary school

"She said working with the MAT had made it easier to recruit and retain because of the continuous professional development and support of the MAT.

Mr Post suggested teachers at MAT schools would not feel the need to move



Regional schools commissioner Martin

to a different school to progress in their career and would instead perhaps become a subject leader across all the schools in the group.

said it might be necessary to ask MATs from other parts of the country to expand into Oxfordshire.

County council cabinet member for education Melinda Tilley said: "The

solution is not in our hands.
"It is in the hands of the government to provide more low-cost key-worker

MATs run academies and are intended to share best practice, centralised services and make staffing more flexible.

The Blackbird Academy Trust is one of a number which operate in Oxfordshire. It runs Orchard Meadow School, Pegasus School and Windale School.

Oxford Spires Academy in Glanville Road, East Oxford, is another MAT and is part of CfBT Schools Trust.

Headteacher Sue Croft said Mr Post's proposals would help with retaining teachers but not recruiting them. She said: "There is a lot that can be done to make teaching more attractive.

"So many of our students are not choosing to go into it as a career because they see it can be very difficult and stressful at times.

She added: "High house prices and the cost of living is also a problem."
Figures compiled by the TeachVac

website, which hosts advertisements for vacancies in Oxfordshire, showed a big decrease in the number of teachers being sought for subjects such as art, science, IT and history.
This could be because of a lack of

teachers in these subjects, leading schools to reorganise their curriculums.

Education expert and county councillor Professor John Howson said: "I think the regional schools commissioner did not understand the problem.

"His proposal would not solve the problem, it was naive response to a serious problem."

Missing prisoner

POLICE are hunting for a former prisoner who went missing almost a month

Henry Williams, also known as Henry Butler, fell from the force's radar after failing to move into approved housing on his



release from prison. The 24-year-old was last seen on Tuesday, June 7, in Banbury and has breached a restraining order.

Thames Valley Police described him as white and thin with fair wavy hair and a scraggly" beard. He has tattooed arms and wrists and

the left side of his face is scarred.

Sexual assault

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl was sexually assaulted in an alleyway in Banbury.

The victim was approached by a man at about 3.30pm last Monday as she was walking by Debenhams in Bridge Street.
The man started talking to her and the

pair walked together through the alleyway through to Christchurch

While in the alleyway, the victim was sexually assaulted by the man, before he walked out towards the bus station.

He has been described as white, about 20, slim to medium build, 5ft 8in with short black hair.

He was wearing a light grey jumper, light grey baggy bottoms and a 'snapback' cap with a red peak.

Pedestrian dies

A PEDESTRIAN died from injuries he suffered after being hit by a car a week

Northamptonshire Police said the 44-year-old man from Farnborough died last Monday following the crash in Byfield on Monday, June 20, in which a silver Toyota Prius hit the victim at about 1.40pm after overtaking a stationary bus.

Car break-ins

POLICE have warned residents to stay vigilant against vehicle crime after two incidents in Banbury last week

A red Ford car was broken into in Grosvenor Road at 2.30pm on July 1 and a black leather shoulder bag, Motorola mobile phone and Nevada sat nav were

Between 9am on July 2 and 10am on July 4 a white VW campervan in Lennox Gardens was broken into, although nothing has been reported missing.



www.atouchofpine.co.uk

Scales of justice

CASES heard at county magistrates' courts recently:

OXFORD

CHARLES HEATH, 30, of Finsbury Place, Chipping Norton, admitted speeding over the 30mph limit in London Road. Chipping Norton, on May 14. Fined £100 and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge. Driving licence endorsed with three points.

BANBURY

DANIEL NOGA, 28, of Hastings Road, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in The Fairway, Banbury, on May 29. Fined £270 and ordered to pay a £30 victim surcharge. Handed a Banned from driving for 12-month driving.

SCOTT ALEXANDER, 31, of Danesmoor, Banbury, admitted assaulting Spencer Houston by beating him in Market Place Banbury, on May 18 last year, Fined £400 ordered to pay £100 compensation, a £40

victim surcharge. **ASHTIAO HUSSAIN**, 34, of Hilton Road Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis, a Class B drug, at Broughton on April 21. Fined £140 and ordered to pay a £30 victim surcharge.

DARREN JAMES. 35, of Tithe Court.

Banbury, admitted using threatening, abusive words or behaviour within hearing or sight of a person likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress at the McColls store, Orchard Way, Banbury, on March 23 this year. Also admitted using threatening, abusive words or behaviour within hearing or sight of a person likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress in Banbury two days earlier. Fined £80 and ordered to pay £20 victim surcharge.

Educational Needs.

Public Meeting regarding new

Free Special School in North Oxfordshire A public meeting will be held on Monday 11 July at 6.30pm at The Warriner School, Bloxham, OX15 4LJ, regarding The Iffley Academy's proposal to open a Free Special School in North Oxfordshire for pupils with complex Special

All parties interested in the future of special education in Oxfordshire are invited to attend. The Head Teacher of The Iffley Academy will give a presentation and answer



Children at Wroxton Primary School enjoying a wild time with Bev James, centre, the farm education coordinator and forest

Pupils gathering life skills down in forest

Outdoor education fosters teamwork and problem solving

Kieran Davev kdavey@nqo.com

CHILDREN in North Oxfordshire have been learning about the wild side of education with a series of forest school ac-

tivities for pupils. Staff from Warriner School Farm in Bloxham have visited schools to introduce youngsters to the world of nature and adventurous play. Activities included den-building, campfire cooking, knot-tying, learning to use bushcraft tools safely, mak-ing mud kitchens and identi-

fying different wildlife. The farm's leader, Bev James, said the classes were aimed at getting more children to experience the out-doors rather than always be-

ing stuck in a classroom.
She added: "Few children nowadays get the oppor-tunity to play outdoors in the way that we did 30 or 40 years ago.

"Parents have become very

portant developmental experiences during childhood are missed out on.

"Forest School gives youngsters the chance to step outside of their comfort zones and discover new, and sometimes surprising capabilities

and talents."
Classes take place every week during the year, with sessions being held in all weathers in the spirit of the great outdoors.

Warriner School Farm

Warriner School Farm is a 120-acre organic farm, purpose built as part of The Warriner School. The project is funded through social housing provider Sanctuary's community investment fund, which supports pro-jects benefiting local communities.

Sanctuary's neighbourhood partnership manager Kate Winstanley said: "We are delighted we've been able to provide a second year of funding to this fantastic community-led project, which has already benefited many young people in the

Not only does it encourage children to learn more about the outdoors but it requires them to utilise team working and problem solving which are essential life skills."

Nurse lied about care home sacking A FORMER Oxford nurse has been nursing profession standards. It said: "Honesty, integrity and sacked from a previous job trustworthiness are considered

struck off after lying about being

Pricilla Lukong, who worked for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust between July 2013 and February 2015, failed to include her employment and subsequent dismissal from a care home in

Banbury in her job application. Mrs Lukong admitted all the charges, which also included a failure to inform the trust she was being investigated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

An NMC panel at a hearing concluded that her behaviour "fell seriously short" of

to be the bedrock of a nurse's practice.
"The panel considers your

dishonesty to be a fundamental departure from the standards expected of a registered nurse and that your actions constituted a breach of a fundamental tenet of the profession.'

The nurse was dismissed by Barchester Healthcare from her post at Chacombe Park Beaumont care home in May 2013 after a "number of concerns" relating to her clinical practice came to light. After her sacking and before being referred to the NMC for investigation she applied for a job with Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. Following the discovery of her lies she was dismissed from the Trust in February 2015.

The Conduct and Competence Committee hearing – held by NMC – last week ordered Mrs Lukong, who is currently working for nursing agency National Locums, to be struck off.

The panel found her dishonestv had impaired her fitness to practise and issued her with a striking off order and an interim suspension of



Streets come alive with the independent traders





Left, Naomi Perkins from Naomi's Cafe street-trading in Bridge Street; right, artist and owner of The Artery Art Shop in Parsons Street, Barry Whitehouse, doing an on-street watercolour demonstration on Saturday Pictures by Neil Simmons

New initiative promotes wares of local retailers to their passing customers

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

MORE than 15 independent shop owners and restaurateurs took to the streets of Banbury on Saturday to pilot a new initiative.

Traders were encouraged to set up stalls in the Old Town and sell their wares to passers-by.
The day, referred to as the

town's first Street Trading Saturday, was meant to act as a link between the year's two Old Town

Naomi Perkins, who owns Naomi's Cafe in Bridge Street but popped along to the Old Town for the day, said: "It was a bit showerv on the day so we got rained on a few times, but it was a good opportunity to do some networking and see familiar faces in a different setting.

"It is important that as inde-pendent traders we take to the streets and interact with the town and community as much as possible, as it is the personal touch that sets us apart from the multinational companies.

"Street trading is fun and brings life to the streets of Banbury. It is also good for business. "The feedback was good from

the passing customers too. We're looking forward to doing it again in the future."

Jolyon New, at Buywise local

appliance and furniture retailers in Parsons Street, said: "I loved the buzz of the Old Town Party and want to try to help recreate that atmosphere

"I think doing something dif-ferent is what makes independent retailers stand out."

Traders from Parsons Street, Church Lane, Church Walk and White Lion Walk spent five hours on the day chatting to customers and networking with

other shop owners. Jasmine D'Cruz, who owns bespoke handbag company J D'Cruz in Parsons Street, said: "I think it's a really good oppor-tunity to create a great vibe and atmosphere in the heart of the independent shops

"It is wonderful that our com-

munity is so supportive too."
And sweets seller Andy Aris, from SugarRush in Church Lane, added: "This gives us opportunity to do something special for the visitors to our town.

"The atmosphere is always good on Church Lane, but days like this make it more vibrant to showcase the independent retailers that Banbury has to of-

Traders from the Old Town held a spring party in May, and are now looking ahead to their party and street organ festival planned for September 3.

If the initiative is deemed to be successful, it is likely the Old Town will host similar events later in the summer.

phase complete THE first phase of the Better Broadband scheme in Oxfordshire has been completed "on time and under budget' County council leader Ian Hudspeth

First broadband

said the second phase, expected to cost up to £6.75m, would continue to extend the fibre-optic network to remote communities.

He told local people in an update: "Since the roll-out began more than two years ago, Better Broadband for Oxfordshire has made faster fibre broadband available to more than 70,000 county premises, 64,500 of which have access to superfast broadband speeds of 24 megabits per second and above."

Money for the scheme is provided by

House burglary

PURSES and an iPad were stolen from a house in Wroxton on Friday.

The burglars were reported to have got into the house, in Stratford Road, through the front door. Thames Valley Police said the burglary took place between 3am and 7am. Call 101 with any information.

Dishing out healthy advice

YOUNG people in Banbury have been showing off their culinary talents as part of a programme to encourage healthy lifestyles.

Residents from Banbury Foyer have been enjoying cooking and budgeting classes, where they used ingredients to prepare a range of dishes they could then try themselves at home

Sheila Jault, who ran the sessions, said: "Working with partners such as Sanctuary is the best way of getting in front of clients who both want, and need, to learn how to cook

"The young people have been fantastic, it is always wonderful to be able to show people who don't cook what you can do with a small number of ingredients.

The food was delivered by Banbury Food for Charities and sessions were funded through Sanctuary Housing's community investment fund

Warm welcome for woolly new arrivals on the farm

A FARM near **Chipping Norton** has welcomed some unusual new arrivals three rare breed

woolly pigs. Fairytale Farm now has three Mangalitsa pigs, a rare Hungarian breed which grows a thick coat

similar to a sheep. Owner Nick Laister said: "Our three new girls are already a favourite with our staff because

they are so gorgeous.
"With thick, woolly coats and huge floppy ears, you might be forgiven for thinking that they are sheep from a distance.

They have got to be the most attractive breed of pig in the world and I think our visitors are going to fall in love with them as



quickly as our The pigs can

the farm in Southcombe, which is open every day until October 30. Mr Laister added: "As recently as 1993,

the Mangalitsa breed was threatened with

"Thanks to a small group of dedicated breeders in Hungary, the Mangalitsa was brought back from the verge of extinction and there are now seven female lines

"We are therefore very proud to have these three beautiful girls at Fairytale Farm and we are sure that our visitors will love meeting

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Rail box call

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help organise and run tours of Banbury's historic north signal box before it is demolished.

The box is open for 10 weeks from August 10 to October 2 for guided tours demonstrating how signal boxes work. More than 500 people have booked their lace to visit the box during the first week of tours.

Email banburynorth@ gmail.com.

Tips to save cash on food buying

MEAT is the main focus in show the district throws away the equivalent of nine jumbo jets in edible food each year.

Each year 5,225 tonnes of edible food per year is thrown out and 365 tonnes of meat and fish suitable for eating. In Food Safety Week running

until July 10 the district council looks at how to cut waste starting with the costliest food to throw out - meat.

The district council's Debbie Pickford said: "Food waste hits residents in the pocket, but by getting clued up on ways to plan meals and store food they can make the most of

their food shopping. "One of the week's big messages will be the difference between bestbefore and use-by dates.

'Although its quality will deteriorate over time, there is no reason to throw food away on its best-before date. "But if food has reached its use-by date, then people risk serious illness by eating it.

"Freezing is a great way to save a meal for later. But many are unaware of the foods we can freeze like chicken.

This week includes tips on cooking and storing food to make budgets go further. See twitter.com/CherwellCouncil or facebook.com/ cherwelldistrictcouncil

Sacrifices at Somme honoured



Rev Phillip Cochrane and Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon at the Banbury vigil in memory of Somme victims

Civic leaders, army vets and politicians pay their respects

Kieran Davev kdavey@nqo.com

ARMY veterans, civic leaders and politicians gathered in Banbury to pay tribute to fallen soldiers at a Battle of the Somme memorial service.

High Steward Sir Tony Baldry and MP Victoria Prentis joined about 40 people for the early-morning service at St Mary's Church on Friday.

They were there to mark the lives of 19,240 British soldiers who died on the first day of the conflict, the bloodiest day in the history of the British army.

At exactly 7.28am town council leader Kieron Mallon blew on a whistle to mark the troops going over the top, and to signal the start of a two-minute silence.

The 45-minute service also featured readings, prayers and a moving lone piper's la-ment played by Pipe Major Steve Duffy.

Mr Mallon, also president of the Banbury Royal British Legion branch, said: "Ban-bury honoured and commemorated the sacrifice of those who fell at the Somme

on Friday morning. "We sat in silence, at the same time that those young soldiers were waiting to go

over the top.
"The Battle of the Somme has come to symbolise the enormous losses and dread-

ful conditions of the First World War. Banbury for-mally acknowledged the sacrifice of those who died or were wounded on the first day and indeed the whole battle itself."

Also among the congregation were members of the church, the Royal British Legion and the Banbury House-hold Division Association, as well as town mayor Gordon Ross and officers from Thames Valley Police.
Sir Tony also gave a read-

ing while the Royal British Legion ode was given by branch chairman Chris Smithson

The service was led by Reverend Phillip Cochrane, who took over at the church at the

start of May.

He said: "It is fitting that St Mary's memorial chapel was the focus for this service. On the walls are the names of those from Banbury who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War.

"As we sat in silence and prayed we remembered the tragic scale of the battle and paid special tribute to those who fell in a short service that followed the vigil. It was heartening to see so many people who joined us before

starting their working day." Senior royals and politicians also led tributes to the dead of the Battle of the Somme on Friday. Prime Minister David Cameron. French president Francois Hollande, the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, led 10,000 guests gathered at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme in France.

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Ukip chief's warm tribute after Farage steps down

Party leader announces he is resigning from the top iob after Brexit victory

Matt Oliver

A UKIP chief in Oxfordshire paid tribute to Nigel Farage's "fantastic" leadership after the politician resigned.

Dickie Bird, the party's parliamentary candidate for Banbury last year, said Mr Farage deserved a rest after playing a major role in the campaign for Britain to quit the European Union (EU) since his party's formation in 1993.

In a statement to the media on Monday, the party leader said he had achieved his aim in politics and added: "I want my life back

Mr Bird said: "He has led us to independence and has done a fantastic job. Now I think he is tired.

"It is always disappointing when vou lose someone of Nigel's quality, but now the party must move on. "As to who

"As to who will take over,

I can't comment. There are some interesting characters though and I hope they will come forward."

Party) would be meeting in the com-

the June 23

Ukip spokesman Dickie Bird, left,

and Nigel Farage

ing weeks to plot a course forward after the country backed 'Brexit'

dum. Mr Bird added: "The party has grown over the years from being fo-cused on just a single issue. He said local members of Ukip (the United Kingdom Independence

"No one knows what our involve-ment will be in what comes next, but the gov-ernment has received the biggest mandate

> the British people and it is now up to them to push this through." Mr Farage said his political career since first standing for Ukip in the East-

leigh by-elec-tion of 1994 had been "a long journey, not at every stage of the way an

easy one, although most of it, I have

to say, has been tremendous fun". He added: "I came into politics from business because I believed that this nation should be self-governing. I have never been and I have never wanted to be a career politician.

"My aim in being in politics was to get Britain out of the European

"That is what we voted for in that referendum two weeks ago, and that is why I now feel that I've done my bit."

It came as the race for the Tory leadership in the wake of Brexit intensified, with two prominent Leave campaigners moving to block Home Secretary Theresa May's path to Downing Street.

Energy Minister Andrea Leadsom insisted she would give Britain its freedom back, while former defence secretary Liam Fox declared that an exit from the single market was a price worth paying for immigration

In a swipe at Mrs May, Ms Lead-som added she would not use EU citizens living in the UK as "bargain-ing chips" and promised their rights would be preserved.

She also dismissed calls that other

candidates should step aside, adding: "I don't think we should have any sort of coronation.

Green grants

GREEN grants up to £10,000 are available for environmental benefit projects across Oxfordshire.

The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2) is inviting applications for its General Environmental Grant Scheme.

Money is available for projects that either promote and improve biodiversity; "support Oxfordshire's low-carbon agenda" and/or improve access to green spaces and the countryside.

Grants are usually up to £5,000 but applications up to £10,000 can be considered. The deadline is July 18. Apply at trustforoxfordshire.org.uk.

Diabetes aid

DIABETES sufferers in Banbury can find out about a new support group at an event on July 14

Staff from Diabetes UK will be setting up in the education studio of Banbury Museum to talk about helping people with diabetes and how to get involved in the new group.

The event starts at 7.30pm, it is

free to attend and refreshments will be provided.

Summer hubs

BOOKING is now open for summer activity hubs for children aged five to 15 in North Oxfordshire which start later this month.

Sessions run from July $25\,\mathrm{to}$ September 2. To book places go to cherwell.gov.uk.



Free gym pass for teenagers

TEENAGERS are being called upon to get up and get fit free of charge in a new council scheme.

Active Teen is a new programme being launched to get young adults fit and provide more sporting for youngsters.

The Cherwell District Council scheme is stumping up a month's free membership for anyone aged between 11 and 15 who attends the gym six times in eight weeks.

Deputy leader George Reynolds said: "The district's gyms offer a fantastic range of activities including everything from weights to spinning, cardio and tai chi.

"Those who take up regular exercise at a young age are more likely to have healthy, active lifestyles when they grow up.

"By investing the funding from Sportivate, we are making it easy for the district's young people to experience everything the gym has to offer and find the exercise that works best for them.

"Regular exercise boosts young people's confidence and vitality, and I am calling on as many of Cherwell's teenagers as possible to make the most of these great offers."

The membership scheme is available from Monday to Saturday in Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and Gosford. It is a national scheme funded by

It is a national scheme funded by Sport England's Sportivate programme working with local authorities.

Gym sessions are £3.70 and the free monthly membership is offered to those who have been to six classes in eight weeks.

For more information e-mail tom.

For more information e-mail tom. gubbins@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

£2m building opens for special school students

Former head performs the opening ceremony of centre named after him

Kieran Davey kdavey@ngo.com

TEENAGERS at a special school now have a new place to learn essential life skills after the opening of a post-16 centre.

Frank Wise School, in Banbury, unveiled its bespoke two-storey building, which will feature a new teaching kitchen and a fully functioning flat for students to use, last week.

It replaces a smaller temporary building on the same site that was built in 2007 but has been used by students aged 16 to 19 with special needs since then.

On Monday last week, students and staff held an opening ceremony for the £2m building.

The pupils welcomed guests with canapés and refreshments, before talking about and showing off their work as visitors toured the new building.

new building. Headteacher Sean O'Sullivan, who has been at the school for 30 years, said: "This gives us a much higger space than we had before

bigger space than we had before.
"It includes some domestic items



Classroom support officer Nathan Hawkins talks to student Nathan Morris with Noveen Yasseen; above right, former Frank Wise School headmaster Kevin Griffiths

and is similar to what people might need in a home. "The old building was completely

"The old building was completely inadequate. It was never meant to last more than a couple of years.

"Unfortunately the economic crash in 2007 meant it was difficult to access any kind of funds for the new building." The opening ceremony was performed by former headmaster Kevin Griffiths, with help from ex-MP and Banbury High Steward, Sir Tony Baldry.

In honour of the previous head, who led the school from 1981 to 2007, the building will be named the Griffiths Centre.



The development was jointly funded through a government grant and Oxfordshire County Council.

As well as the kitchen there is an adjoining dining room where students can eat and hold regular coffee mornings with visitors.

Mr O'Sullivan said: "The opening

Mr O'Sullivan said: "The opening was tremendous and the students did a fantastic job.

"The school is incredibly grateful for the support received to actually equip the new building.

"Parents, staff, businesses, charities and individuals in the community have all been wonderfully generous in helping the school to reach its target."

Lady Baldry acted as the patron of a fundraising appeal, which was co-ordinated by the Friends of Frank Wise School.

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Dad-of-six caught with child images

Community order for making indecent images of vulnerable youngsters

Annabal Bagdi abagdi@nqo.con

A FATHER-OF-SIX who was caught with indecent pic-tures of 'vulnerable' youngsters has been handed a community order.

Adrian King was convicted by a jury last month of three counts of making indecent images of children.

Sentencing at Oxford Crown Court on Thursday, Recorder Stephen Hofmeyr QC handed King a 36-month community order with a 40-day rehabilitation and a 60-

day programme requirement. He added: "Viewing and down-

loading images creates a market that is built on exploiting vulner-able children. You have exploited vulnerable children for your own gratification, causing untold

'You have also fuelled an industry that lives off this behaviour."

During the trial, jurors heard police raided his Banbury home in April 2014, after receiving information from the National

Crime Agency.
Prosecutor Helen Guest told the court during the trial: "The defendant had been searching for images of children and the reason the Crown says that is be-

cause there was evidence of websites having been accessed. "During his interview he de-nied all knowledge of indecent images on the device, he had no idea of how they came to be on there. He was at a complete loss.

he took the stand, telling the court he was not responsible for downloading the photographs and was unaware they were

stored on his laptop.
But a jury of nine men and three women unanimously found him guilty of all the crimes after just one hour and 15 minutes de-

liberating.
Defence barrister Lucy Tapper said the 34-year-old's case had placed an 'incredible strain' on his wife of 15 years and his chil-

She said he faced 'serious repercussions' during the trial, losing his job after employers spotted reports of his trial.

King, of Beaumaris Close, Ban-bury, was also made subject to a sexual harm prevention order. Recorder Hofmeyr also ordered

the forfeiture of the laptop

Bookshop scoops blog prize



Hero Brown, right, gives the Muddy Stilettos award to Sam Barnes

AN INDEPENDENT bookshop in Banbury is top of the pile after scooping a regional award.

Books & Ink won the prize for best bookshop in **Buckinghamshire** and Oxfordshire at the Muddy

Stilettos 2016 awards. The shop, in White Lion Walk, was voted for by customers, beating four other businesses to clinch the prize.

Shop owner Sam Barnes said: "It's incredible to have won the Muddy Stilettos award. It's such an influential blog.

"The shop was up against

very strong competition. but our wonderful customers have voted us number one. It's especially great coming so soon after the shop's tenth birthday celebrations.

There were two rounds of voting with all businesses in the region eligible to be nominated. A total of 25,000 votes were cast across all the categories.

Staff from the bookshop were handed the award by blog founder Hero Brown at a presentation ceremony in Haddenham.

They were given a

certificate and rosette. Ms Brown said: "The Muddy Stilettos Awards give local lifestyle businesses and their customers a chance to shout about how brilliant they are.

The overwhelming feeling has been one of real support and appreciation for these local businesses.

"It has been very inspiring to see just how many wonderful places there are in our area," she added.

Muddy Stilettos is a lifestyle blog aimed at women aged 25 to 55.

Van driver's lucky escape after crash

A VAN driver was lucky to escape with minor injuries after crashing his vehicle off the M40 near Banbury before hitting power cables.
Fire crews were called to the northbound

carriageway of the motorway at about 4.15pm last Tuesday to reports of a collision between junction 11 at Banbury and junction 12 at Gaydon.
Three crews from Banbury, Deddington and Hook

Norton fire stations found a trail of destruction from embankment, including vehicle parts, broken fences, and a wooden electricity pole that had been snapped

Station manager David Bray, who attended the incident, said: "I am astounded that the driver has escaped this incident with relatively minor injuries."

Banbury Cake

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Legend makes a fine return

THF LEGEND OF TARZAN (12A, 110 mins) Action/Adventure/ Romance. Alexander Skarsgard, **Margot Robbie, Christoph** Waltz, Samuel L Jackson, Djimon Hounsou, Jim Broadbent. **Director: David Yates**

IT'S been almost 100 years since Edgar Rice Burroughs muscular protector of the jungle swung into action on the big screen in the swaggering form of silent movie actor Elmo Lincoln

Olympic swimmer Johnny Weissmuller popularised the iconic role in the 1930s and 1940s before more recent incarnations including Greystoke: The Legend Of Tarzan with Christopher Lambert and Disney's animated rendering.
Written by Adam Cozad and

Craig Brewer, *The Legend Of Tarzan* is an entertaining and rumbustious romp that focuses on the love story between the orphaned hero and his plucky sweetheart against a backdrop of late-19th Century treachery.

Director David Yates, who worked his magic at the helm of the final four films in the Harry Potter saga, orchestrates vineswinging action sequences with aplomb, festooned with a menagerie of computer-generated animals that look

incredibly realistic in close-up. Shot at Warner Bros. Studios near Watford and on location around the UK. The Legend Of Tarzan captures the bare necessities of Burroughs source text with gusto.
Skarsgard and Robbie are an

attractive pairing, the latter imbuing her heroine with steeliness and resolve. NOW YOU SEE ME 2 (12A, 129 mins) Thriller/Action/Romance. Mark Ruffalo, Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Dave Franco, Lizzy Caplan, Daniel Radcliffe, Morgan Freeman, Sanaa Lathan, Ben Lamb. Director: Jon M Chu

SEEING is deceiving in Jon M Chu's outlandish sequel to the 2013 crime caper about a team of wise-cracking illusionists known as the Four Horsemen, who expose the corrupt with their daredevil antics.

The first film was an enjoyable romp that lost its way with a hare-brained final act that cheated us as well as the gobsmacked characters.

Penned by the same three screenwriters, Now You See Me 2 is a similarly convoluted revenge thriller that repeatedly loosens its grasp on plausibility for the sake of cinematic thrills, with one notable exception.

A centrepiece sequence, which concerns the passing of a playing card around a high security vault, is a tour-de-force of nail-biting tension and snappy editing that genuinely quickens our pulses.

Nothing else in Chu's film comes close to this merry-goround of misdirection and sleight of hand that seems like it could be achieved with hours of practice.

Most of the original cast reprise their enigmatic roles and the sequel welcomes Daniel Radcliffe as a reclusive technical wizard, who ravenously chews scenery as he puts the lead quartet through the wringer

Now You See Me 2 opens with a heart-rending 1980s prologue that emboldens the underlying theme of father-son relationships.
Fast-forwarding to the present,

it has been one year since the Four Horsemen outwitted Interpol and put former magician Thaddeus Bradley (Morgan Freeman) behind bars

FBI agent Dylan Rhodes (Mark Ruffalo) assigns the remaining Horsemen – close-up conjurer Daniel Atlas (Jesse Eisenberg), mentalist Merritt McKinney (Woody Harrelson) and street magician Jack Wilder (Dave Franco) - a new case.

They must expose businessman Owen Case (Ben Lamb), who possesses software that steals personal data. Sassy illusionist Lula May

(Lizzy Caplan) replaces missing member Henley and the team infiltrates Case's high-profile media launch to expose his skulduggery.

Alas, the trick is on the Horsemen and Dylan is publicly exposed as the Fifth Horsemen to his boss, deputy director

Natalie Austin (Sanaa Lathan). Now You See Me 2 employs digital trickery like its predecessor, building to a firework-laden crescendo during the New Year's Eve celebrations in London that is a damp squib.

Ruffalo, Eisenberg and co ease back into familiar roles while Caplan ramps up the comic

Could it be magic? Not quite.



Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services. services.

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that obviously helps.
Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole?

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in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

effort is appreciate

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



Cake Bookworm

published in paperback by Thomas & Mercer, priced £8.99

(ebook £3.99) IRISHMAN Joe Tiplady has a murky past involving training in North Korea, but now enjoys a quiet life as a special needs teacher in London – and walking his dog Reilly. When Reilly is dognapped, Joe finds himself drawn into the world of Russian beauty Katya Koremedova, who's on the run from her psychopathic boyfriend. The action shifts across the globe and between Sweeney's cast of eerily convincing characters - many based on real experiences he had as an investigative reporter. His debut novel, Elephant Moon was well received and Cold is the first in a received and Cold is the first in a trilogy featuring Joe Tiplady. The Tidal Zone by Sarah Moss is published in paperback by Granta, priced £12.99 (ebook

ADAM Goldschmidt is a stay-at-

home dad whose world view changes dramatically when his 15-year-old daughter's heart stops beating on the school playing field. Thrown into uncertainty, the family struggle through the frustration of waiting for answers and a return to 'normality', trying to adjust to the realisation that Miriam will never be truly safe again. Sarah Moss is an astute storyteller, and in The Tidal Zone shares societal observations around her slowburning plot. But the heartbeat of the book is trust – losing trust and rebuilding it – in authority, your body and relationships. Moss taps into a range of experiences that you do not need to be a parent to feel and tackles this extremely uncomfortable subject with tact, plausibility and flowing prose. Umami by Laia Jufresa is published in hardback by Oneworld Publications, priced £12.99 (ebook £11.99)

ON THE face of it, fans of

contemporary fiction are in for a treat. Laia Jufresa's novel is constructed around a group of middle-class - verging on bohemian - families in Mexico City. It offers the enticing prospect of a vast, filthy and overcrowded megatropolis being opened up. Jufresa herself is well-travelled. She was raised in the cloud forests of Veracruz and also grew up in Paris But the Mexican households she writes about encircle a small courtyard in a modern housing complex. The estate has been designed by the landlord, a semiretired anthropologist who is an expert on pre-Spanish cultivation habits and the recently-discovered "fifth taste" of umami. And that shut-off-ness from the hum and throb of street life is reflected in the preoccupations of Jufresa's inward-looking characters, as the story moves backwards in time to excavate a narrative that is mostly about death, absence, and loss.

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Service praised

CHILDREN'S social services in Oxfordshire are among the best in the country, Ofsted has said.

Oxfordshire County Council passed the watchdog's new inspection test, which is more rigorous than before. Only 23 of the 87 councils inspected

under the new framework were ranked good by Ofsted.

County council cabinet member for education Melinda Tilley said: "There are clearly some concerns at a national level that relatively few councils are achieving a good rating.

"In Oxfordshire we are obviously pleased to be among those, while being absolutely clear that further improvements are needed and that there can never be room for complacency.

Road death toll

THE number of people killed on Oxfordshire's roads last year was exactly the same as in 2014.

New figures released by the Department for Transport showed 26 people died in the county.

A further 329 were seriously injured and 1,951 were slightly injured.

Across Great Britain 1,732 people died on the roads in 2015, down from 1,775 the year before and the second lowest annual total on record.

The Department said in the past decade fatalities had dropped by 45 per cent.

Microwave fire

A MICROWAVE caused a small fire at a house in Verney Road, Banbury. Fire crews were called to the house at

8.30pm on Tuesday last week where they found smoke billowing from the kitchen

Officers found the house owner had evacuated the property after the smoke alarm was set off.

New coach link to UK's second city taking off

Express service will stop at airport and £150m shopping complex daily

Annabal Bagdi

abagdi@nqo.com

TRIPS from the bustling streets beneath the dreaming spires to the bright lights of the UK's second largest city took off on Saturday.

Oxford Bus Company is taking thrill-seeking travellers from Oxford and Banbury to Birmingham for the first time on its express coach service the Airline.

The new venture sees explorers vovage across the county towards the Midland city, stopping off at its bustling airport and its £150m shopping complex.

Oxford Bus Company managing director Phil Southall said its BHX service also takes a detour, passing through Banbury and Warwick during its 10 trips each day.

He added: "For many years our customers have asked us to look at the possibility of starting a route to Birmingham.
"Birmingham Airport is cur-

rently going through a period of rapid growth, with many new destinations recently being added



The Airline will serve coach passengers between Oxford and Birmingham via Banubry

to its network. But connectivity to the airport from both Oxford and Warwick still has some room for improvement and so we felt that the time was right to give our customers the opportunity to take advantage of these new journey possibilities."

The bus company's service will set off from Gloucester Green coach station before calling at Oxford Parkway park-and-ride and Banbury's Stroud Park. Coaches will then turn into War-

wick, stopping off at the town's castle, bus station and university, before arriving at Birmingham In-

ternational Station and Birmingham Airport. Drivers will make a final pit stop at the city's Resorts World, the first shopping outlet of its kind to open in Europe last year, which is coupled with a casino said to be the biggest in Britain.

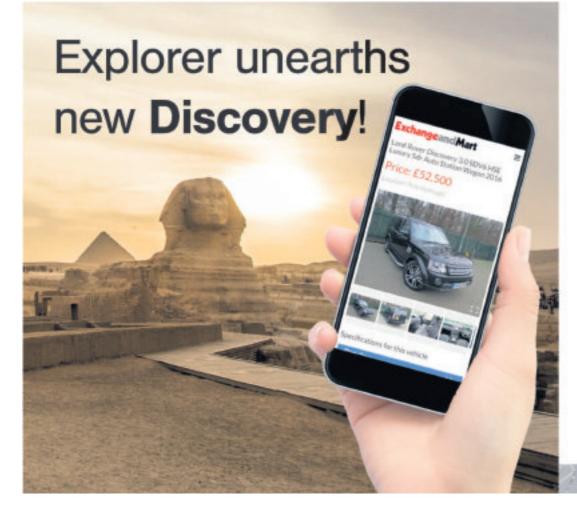
The Midlands complex is also just a stone's throw from the Genting Arena, as well as The NEC.

Mr Southall said: "The new route isn't just for those visiting the airport, there are a number of great leisure destinations along the route, both at the Resorts World and NEC campus, and in Warwick where customers can visit the

magnificent castle. We also expect the new North Banbury stop will be welcomed by commuters, and will give improved connections for visitors to the Banbury Gateway

shopping park."
Oxford Bus Company will offer customers a "passport" ticket, giving travellers the chance to make unlimited journeys on any of its buses and coaches for 24 hours, 48 hours or 72 hours.

It will also introduce tickets for the new route within its existing airline and X90 services to London, and the Heathrow and Gatwick airports.





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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Jewellery for hope: Vesey Room, Old Grammar School, Church View, Bampton. Unique pieces of jewellery handmade by Laura Hounam to raise funds for Against Breast Cancer. 11am. Free entry. 07816 333653.

Men of Wantage in 1916: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. A talk by Trevor Hancock. 7.30pm. £5. 01235 771447.

National Gardens Scheme: Upper Chalford Farm, between Sydenham and Postcombe. Evening opening with wine or Pimm's. Jacobean farmhouse garden surrounded by fields, old roses, shrubs and perennials. Wheelchair access. Plant sale. Teas. 4pm. Adult £4, children free. 01844 351320.

FRIDAY

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Steeple Barton. Leisurely three-mile circular walk in the area. Leader Mary Gough. 6.30pm. 07939 826412.

Fritwell Summer Evening Fete:
Fritwell School, East Street, Fritwell. 6pm
£1 adult, children Free. 07767 416308.
Act, for Camera: 12 Abingdon Road,
Sutton Courtenay. Two-day workshops.
Taught by filmmaker and lecturer Rory
Kilalea. Techniques to perform
monologues and group work will be
filmed. 10am. 07790 994782.

SATURDAY

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Watlington Hill Car Park, Watlington. Moderate, hilly 10-mille circular walk via Russell's Water Common. Picnic lunch. Leaders Chris and Derek Parish. 10am. Crime Author Talk: Eynsham Library, 30 Mill Street, Eynsham. Meet local crime author Jacquie Walton, who writes as Faith Martin and Joyce Cato. 2pm. Free. 01865 880525.

Family Fun Day: Millets Farm, Kingston Road, Frilford. 10am.

Flower Festival: St Stephen's Church, Pound Lane, Clanfield. 10am. Free. 01993 841294.

Getting to know your sewing machine: The Mix Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. With textile artist Ann Batchelor. 10am. Free. 07768 767787.

Globe-makers: Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford. Discover the remarkable methods of Renaissance craftsman and make your own pocket globe to take home. Drop-in. Materials £2. Suitable for ages 9-13. 2pm. Free. 01865 277280.

Grand sale of jumble and bric-a-brac: Village Hall, Castle Road, Wootton by Woodstock. 3pm. 20p. 01993

Murder Mystery Dining Train:
Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway,
Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor.
6.15pm. Adult £45. 07979 055366.
Wallingford Walks: Town Hall, Market
Place, Wallingford. 11am. £5, as donation
to Wallingford Museum. 01491 836200.
Survival!: Soldiers of Oxfordshire
Museum, Park Street, Woodstock.
Challenging workshop for 7-10 year olds.
Booking essential. 1pm. £7. 01993 810

SUNDAY

Botanical Illustration: Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Learn tips and techniques from RHS Gold Award winning botanical illustrator Romilly Swann. £30; booking essential: 10am. 01865 407792.

Dunmore School Summer Fete:Dunmore Primary School, Northcourt
Road, Abingdon-on-Thames. 12.30pm.
Free

Fitness Pilates: East Oxford

Community Centre, 44 Princes Street

Hailey Village Garage Sale: Hailey, Middletown. Location maps available outside Lamb & Flag. 9.30am. £1. 01993 899125

National Gardens Scheme: North Moreton Gardens. Four gardens in this charming village. Interesting Gradel medieval church with C13 stained glass window. The four gardens are all very different, giving the visitor the chance to see varied plantings, herbaceous borders, perennials, shrubs, lily and fish ponds, to name but a few areas of interest. Partial wheelchair access. Plant sales. Teas in C17 barn at North Moreton House. 2pm. Combined adult £5, children free

MONDAY

Indoor Bowls (short-mat): Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. 1.45pm. 01235 528402

Mums Meet Mondays: Rugrats and Halfpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 9.30am. £1 per child. 01295 250060. Seniors (Gentlel) Yoga: Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. Promoted by Go Active Gold. 11am. £5. 07766

TUESDAY

Al – are we limited by the human factor: The Jam Factoy, Park End Street, Oxford. Are emotions and intuition integral to reasoning, or can machines learn and evolve faster than we can? More importantly – will we allow them to? Join Science Oxford and Philosophy in Pubs to offer your opinion and discuss the most incredible minds of today – artificial ones – and how they might impact our future. Suitable for ages 18+. 7.30pm. Free (donation). 01865 810000. Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Brill Windmill, South Hills, Brill. Leisurely 4.5-mile walk via Boarstall. 10am. 07939

826412. Ramblers Walk: Kidlington, car park behind St Mary the Virgin Church, Kidlington. Leisurely four-mile walk via coffee stop at Thrupp cafe. Walk unsuitable for dogs. 10am. 01865 761253

Walk (Fieldpaths): Church Lane car park, Burford. 5.5 miles. A gentle walk from Burford, passing through meadows, with an attractive stretch by the River Windrush. Bring refreshments for en route break. Pub in Fulbrook at end of walk. Dogs on leads. 10am. 01993 878079

WEDNESDAY

'Nojoke, that' – the Allied military campaign in North Russia, 1917-1920: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Creator of the Great War Forum, Chris Baker, explains the genesis of the Allied intervention in Bolshevik Russia, before exploring the muddled and under-resourced military campaign that developed. 6.45pm. £15. 01993 810 211.

Fabric Necklaces: The Mix Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. All materials will be provided from our Resource Bank. 2pm. Free. 07768 767787

Harwell WI: Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Didcot. A talk by Mary Russell entitled 'Cycling in Syria – A unique cultural travel account of this complex country'. Husbands and partners are welcome to attend this meeting. 7.30pm. Free. 01235 835649.

Nature Tots: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Sutton Courtenay Road, Sutton Courtenay. An opportunity for pre-school little ones to interact with and learn from nature. Outdoor nature play, games, stories and craft. Booking essential. 9.30am. £5 per child, accompanying adults free. 01235 862024.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

The Drawing Circus: Chadlington Village Hall, Chapel Road, Chadlington. A circus-themed life drawing workshop Three nude and costumed models in tableau on a circus-themed set, accompanied by live music from a flautist and cellist. Over the course of the day you will have the opportunity to draw from the models and musicians as they enact circus narratives in short, medium and longer poses. All abilities are welcome and drawing tutor Jake Spicer will be on hand throughout the day to provide feedback and advice. Basic drawing materials and drawing boards are provided, but you are also encouraged to bring your own materials to work with. Easels will be provided on request, email info@thedrawingcircus.co.uk for details. 10am. £75 (£65 students). 07805

Walk (Fieldpaths): Lower End Village Hall, Sports Field, Leafield. Four miles. A short walk to Akeman Street Roman Road/Wychwood Way. Bring refreshments for en route break. Assistance dogs only. 10.30am. 01865 371985.

Music

THURSDAY

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford: Lunchtime concert. Free. 12.45pm. 01865 243216.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Snake David. Jazz saxophonist accompanied by The Spin Trio. The Spin Jazz Club. 8.30pm £10, £8 (conc), £6 (student).

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: Force Of Mortality, Holy Moments, Young At Sea, Din Twins, Richard Moore. Hard rock & punk. 7pm. £6.

Joe's Bar & Grill, 260 Banbury Road, Oxford: Quartet Annique. Jazz quartet. 8pm. Free.

FRIDAY

Burwell Hall, Thorny Leys, Witney:Rebecca Poole. Witney Jazz Club. £10 if ordered in advance or £12 on night. 8pm. 07710 545555.

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Baroque Music by Candlelight: Salve Regina. Charivari Agréable. £18, £16 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford: Classical Night in the Museum. The Montagnana Trio. £25. 7pm. 01865 321881

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Kanadia, Ghosts In The Photographs, Grub. Indie rock. 7pm. £6. The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Daphna Sadeh & The Voyagers. KlezmerIndian-Jazz fusion. 10pm-3am. £7 (adv),

James Street Tavern, 47-48 James Street, Oxford: Firegazer, Tony Batey and Blin Johnny. Acoustic folk-rock and blues. 8.30-11.30pm. Free.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Masiro, Social Discharge, Lee Riley. 7.45pm. £6.

SATURDAY

Edward Feild Primary School,

Bicester Road, Kidlington: Kidlington Concert Brass – Summer Concert. £8 adult, £5 student, free 16 & under. 7.30pm. 07756 929264.

Kirtlington Village Hall & Sports Field, South Green, Kirtlington: Jazz in the Park. Jazz music by Nick Gill and his band. Bring a picnic. £10 per adult. Children free. 6.30pm. 01869 351537

Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford: Brass band concert. Two sections of K&G Brass Band from Oxford's twin city of Leiden – the K&G Youth Marching Band and the K&G3 stage band – perform at the concert with the Oxford University Brass Band and the Oxford-based Strawberry Fayre Majorettes. £10 (£5 for children 16 and under). 7pm. 01865 374877.

Royal Standard, London Road, Headington: Rock Formation. Rock and pop covers band. Free. 8.30pm. 01865764591.

St Giles Church, St Giles, Oxford: Songs for clarinet, soprano and piano. £10/£8/£5 students. £10/£8/£5 students. 7.30pm. 01865 510460.

St Helen's Church, West St Helen Street, Abingdon: A Summer Celebration. Abingdon Concert Band. £9 (£7 concession, U16 free). 7.30pm. The Glow Hall, Community Centre,

Blackbird Leys Road, Oxford: Summer Concert. Blackbird Leys Community Choir are hosting a Summer Concert for Cantare Ladies Choir conducted by composer Michael Betteridge. Retiring collection only. 7.30pm. 07985185545.

The Rock of Gibraltar, Station Road, Enslow Bridge, Kidlington: Mudslide Morris & the Revelators. 9pm. The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Evarose, Beaumont, Skies. Altrock. 7pm. £7.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: 31 Hours, Fashionproof, Silver Ravens, Jinjacooze, Luke Almon. Indie, alternative, new wave. electronica. 7pm. £6 (adv).

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Terminus, Nasty High. Metal/hard rock. 7pm. £7 (otd).
Cricketers Arms, 102 Temple Road,

Cricketers Arms, 102 Temple Road Cowley: Kev Cripps is Elvis. Elvis Presley tribute. 8pm. Free.

SUNDAY

All Saints' Church, Church Street, Sutton Courtenay: Fresh Alrs for Flute With James Thompson. £6.50 (Student £4); Season Pass £28 / £16.6pm. 07788715873.

University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Oxford: Maori Kapa Haka meets Brahms – New Zealand Youth Choir on World Tour. £15 / £12. 7.30pm. 01865 305305.

O2 Academy, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: KRS-One. Bronx hip hop legend. 6pm. £22.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South
Parade, Summertown: Becki Biggins
– featuring Dom Franks (vocals, sax,
piano and bass). 6.30-9pm. Free.

MONDAY

Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford: OSJ Prom at the Ashmolean. Angell Trio. £25 chair (£10 bench). 7.30pm. 07775 904626.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Albany Down, Invisible Vegas. The Haven Club. Blues. 8pm. £8 (adv), £10 (otd), £5 (NUS).

TUESDAY

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Baroque Music by Candlelight:

Dulcet Fifes. £17, £15 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Blake's 7 Funk. Bop-inspired funky jazz. 8.30pm. Free.

The Library Pub, 182 Cowley Road, Oxford: Felix M-B, Sylva Kay and Lorkin O'Reilly. Nu/alt-folk. 7.30-11pm. £4 advance.

WEDNESDAY

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Tudor Music by Candlelight: My Ladye Loves. £17, £15 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Jack Gibbons on piano. In advance £16 (on door £20). 8pm. 01865 305305.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Jero Férec Flamenco Co. Spanish dance and music show. 8pm-10pm. £15, £10

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Jul 7-8, Labels. 7.30pm. £10 (£8). Jul 10, Storm in a Teacup. 11am and 2pm. £8 (£6). 01865 305305

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Jul 7, Andrew Lawrence. 7pm. £13, £10 student. Jul 9, Andrea Hubert, Eddy Brimson, Wayne Deakin and John Hastings. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Jul 7-8, Much Ado About Nothing. 7.30pm. £12, £10. 01865 305305.

Oxford Castle, New Road, Oxford: Jul 4-16, *Much Ado About Nothing*. 7.30pm. £15 and £13. 01865 260666.

Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road, Oxford: Jul 8, Fossils. 7.30pm. £10. Jul 9, Pond Wife. 7.30pm. £10. 01865 812150.

Multiple locations, Becket Street, Oxford: Jun 23-Jul 30, A Midsummer Night's Dream. Creation Theatre will take audiences on an immersive interactive adventure in small groups across multiple locations. 7.30pm. £24. 01865

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Jul 7-9, *The Last Tango*. 7.30pm. £23.40-£62.90 plus £4 transaction fee. 0844 871 3020.

Oxford University Parks, Parks Road, Oxford: Jul 13-Aug 13, Hamlet. Creation Theatre. 7.30pm. £22 to £27. 01865 766266.

The Gardens of Wadham College, Parks Road, Oxford: Jun 28-Aug 18, Love's Labour's Lost. 7.30pm. £18-£23 (Previews June 28-30 £13). 0844 879 4418.

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown: Jul 11-12, Queens of Syria. Performed by an all-female cast of Syrian refugees, the production skilfully amalgamates the women's own narratives of bitter exile and ferocious war into the ancient Greek text. 8pm. £20 (concessions £15). 01865 319450.

The Story Museum, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford: Jul 11-16, William Shakespeare's Richard III. 7.30pm. £14 full (£10 concessions).

Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot: Jul 8, *The* Waiting Room. Cornerstone Youth Theatre. 7.30pm. Free, booking essential. Jul 10, *Bad Guys* (family and children's theatre for ages 5-11). 2pm. £8.50, £6.50 (concs). 01235 515144.

CakeSport banburycake.co.uk/sport



Lloyd Sabin (right) took 3-30 in Banbury's four-wicket loss

Banbury slide to surprise defeat

Setback sees Division 1 title hopefuls fall to fourth place

BANBURY dropped to fourth in Division 1 of the Home Counties Premier League following a surprise four-wicket defeat at home to Slough, who claimed only their second win of the campaign.
After losing the toss, the

hosts suffered an early blow when opener Hugo Darby was out hit wicket.

Kurtis Patterson and Craig Haupt dug in to get them back on track, putting on 62 for the second wicket.

Patterson top-scored with 46, but despite a succession

of batsmen after him getting in, no-one was able to convert a solid start into a significant contribution.

Slough's Steven Green (7-52) did most of the damage as the high-flying hosts finished on 185-8.

The target proved light work for the visitors, who took a grip of the match with a 110-run stand for the second wicket.

Banbury skipper Lloyd Sabin removed both Nabil Shah (73) and Waqas Hussain (50), but although five

wickets fell for 34 runs, it

was too late.	
BANBURY	
H Darby hit wicket Khan	5
C Haupt c Rana b Green	25
K Patterson c Yousaf b Green	46
L Sabin c Rana b Green	14
W Hawtin Ibw Green	17
J Megson c Qureshi b Green	16
A Blanchard c Yousaf b Green	
K Penhale c Rana b Green	1
C Hill not out	21
O Wright not out	8
Extras	4
Total (8 wkts, 62 ovs)	185
Fall: 1-5, 2-67, 3-80, 4-99, 5-118, 6-127, 7-136, 8-159,	
Bowling: N Raia 14-2-46-0. Khan 8-3-25-1. Yousaf 14	4-39-0
6 20552740 : 64400	

Green 20-5-52-7, A Raja 6-1-19-0.

SLOUGH

F Qureshi c Haupt b Taylor

vling: Penhale 9-0-46-0, Taylor 4-1-10-1, Wright 7.5-2-35-1, Hill 5-0-34-1, Sabin 7-0-30-3.

Banbury 8pts, Slough 25 I ATFST TARI F

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*F'hampstead Henley H Wycombe Banbury Slough *Burnham Tring Park Gt & Lt Tew Reading Harefield *points deducted	P 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	vision W 5 4 5 2 5 2 1 0	n1 D 0 2 2 1 1 2 2 1 0	L 2 1 2 1 3 2 3 4 6 7	NR 1 0 1 2 3 0 2 2 1 2	Bon 14 26 31 15 31 27 32 29 37 37	Pts 140 138 133 130 97 93 90 84 71 49

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Thursday, July 7, 2016 BANBURY CAKE 15 banburycake.co.uk/news

Independent Retailer Month

Campaign showcases benefits of small retailers

encouraged to support small businesses during Independent Retailer Month this July.

The national campaign highlights the contribution of local independent retailers to the community, the local economy and the retail sector as a whole.

According to research, for every £1 spent locally, between 50p and 70p recirculates back into the local economy. But for every £1 spent out of town or online, just 5p trickles back to the local community.

By convincing people of the benefits of buying locally, the initiative aims to change shopping habits long term and increase footfall in high streets and village centres A key message of the campaign is that, as

well as offering a more personal shopping experience and attentive customer service, smaller shops also offer good value for money. Banbury's Old Town with its selection of

small, independent stores and tea shops offers old-fashioned charm for shoppers. Where the Castle Quay Centre provides a modern shopping experience with big national



INDEPENDENT: Banbury's Natural Health Store

chains, the Old Town retains its historic atmosphere

Several local bakeries and restaurants sell the famous Banbury Cakes, which have been made to a secret recipe for hundreds of years.

One of the local businesses based in Banbury is the Natural Health Store and Therapy Rooms in George Street. The shop sells vitamins and supplements, natural cosmetics and health

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

▲ Make a pledge to shop locally as much as possible for the month of July to support local independent retailers

▲ Search for local independent shops on the retailer database at

independentretailermonth.co.uk ▲ Follow the campaign on Twitter @IndieRetail to find out what's happening

in vour area

▲ Encourage your friends to shop locally

food. Owner Annette Tuckey said the business grew out of her passion for the natural health

She said: "Most independent retailers set up their business in an industry they are passionate about. This certainly was the case for me and I am really enjoying every day. I would hope customers feel they experience a personal service in our store and can draw from my knowledge."

Support for Independent Retail, the organisation behind the campaign, is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of local

and inspiration to help retailers stay open for business despite the challenges, such as competition from big online retailers.

Its website features a free Independent Shops Directory where shoppers can search for small businesses

There is also a selection of free resources which business owners can download, including Independent Retailer Month posters to display in-store throughout July.

Shops are encouraged to record videos to promote their business and products or services. Sharing positive customer feedback on social media is another way retailers can spread the word about the benefits of buying

The Oxfordshire Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses across the county, is backing the campaign.

Its president, Peter Smith, said: "At the Chamber, we are very supportive of local businesses supporting their local communities.

"We would encourage residents to support Independent Retailer Month - it is important to recognise and encourage small shops.



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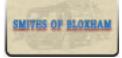
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DEAR HEART OF JESUS

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The second pub-friendly property is tucked down a quiet lane just 341ft away from Greatworth's village inn.

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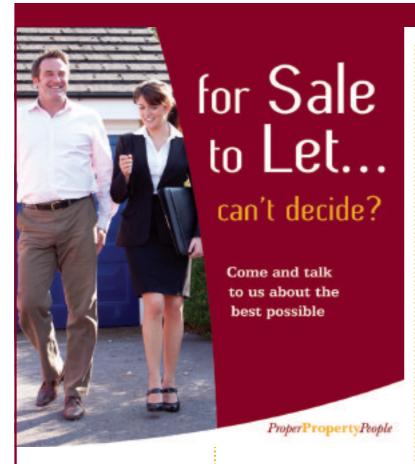
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Thursday, July 7, 2016 27

Motors - first for new cars

New Car Road Test

The definitive view by Andy Enright



3 R's Rav-Revived-Reacquainted







TOYOTA'S RAV4 compact SUV soft roader has been around so long it's easy to forget quite how far it's come. The much improved fourth generation model we look at here is more sophisticated, better finished, and far more efficient thanks to the fresh option of hybrid power. Reacquaint yourself with it. You might be in for a surprise.

Background

It's easy to underestimate quite what a debt of gratitude we owe the Toyota RAV4. Back in 1994, the market for compact 4x4s was massively different to the one we have today. If you wanted a modestly-sized SUV back then, you had to do so with the proviso that it was likely to fall over if it was shown a picture of a corner. The RAV4 changed all that. It was the first small 4x4 that was actually good fun to drive on road.

But times change. The RAV4 has grown ever bigger and more sophisticated in response to rival soft-roading compact SUVs like its nemesis, the Honda CR-V. The fourth generation car, first shown in late 2012, is a smarter take on a well-established theme and has been further developed here with a smarter look and feel, plus the option of hybrid power.

Driving Experience

Under the bonnet, the key news is the introduction of the first RAV4 hybrid model. Toyota has chosen not to offer the kind of Plug-in hybrid technology here you get in a rival Mitsubishi Outlander but the more conventional 2.5-litre VVTi petrol/electric unit you do get is commendably smooth and frugal, putting out 194bhp and able to get to 62mph in 8.4s. It's offered with either two or four-wheel drive con-figurations, the latter equipped with Toyota's E-Four system. This uses a second electric motor at the rear which provides automatic electronic all-wheel drive to give increased traction. The lightweight technology - there is no central propshaft also gives RAV4 Hybrid a 1,650kg towing capacity.

Design and Build

This heavily revised fourth generation RAV4 gets a smarter look than before - and in particular, a sharper front end. The upper grille is more slender and is flanked by restyled halogen or LED headlamps with integrated LED daytime running lights. The middle grille has been made wider and the lower, trapezoidal grille has been made significantly larger. Inside, the cabin still doesn't have a truly premium brand feel but it has been tidied up quite a

lot. The instrument binnacle, the centre console and the gearshift surround get a slightly smarter look. Plus the centre console has been redesigned to accommodate the latest Toyota Touch 2 infotainment system touchscreen.

Market and Model

Your perspective on RAV4 pricing will depend upon what kind of car you perceive this to be. The motoring mags will tell you that it competes with family Crossovers like Renault's Kadjar and Hyundai's Tucson - but against these cars, it looks quite expensive, with prices pitched in the £24,000 to £31,000 bracket. Toyota though, perceives this as something more than a Crossover: yes, the RAV4 can appeal to that kind of buyer but traditionally, it's also been something more sophisticated, a more capable compact SUV too - a car like Honda's CR-V. It's certainly priced very similarly to a CR-V.

Cost of Ownership

Toyota's decision to discontinue the 2.2-litre diesel used in top derivatives of the previous version of this car is all to the good in terms of economy. The freshly upgraded 141bhp 2.0 D-4D unit manages 60.1mpg on the combined cycle, which is about 10mpg better than

the old 2.2 could manage. The CO2 figure's better too - 123g/km on 17-inch wheels. It's interesting to compare these figures against those of the petrol/electric 2.5-litre Hybrid variant. This derivative manages 57.6mpg on 17-inch wheels and 115g/km of CO2 in 2WD form. Or 55.4mpg and 118g/km in AWD guise. Go for the conventional automatic 2.0-litre Valvematic petrol model and the figures are 43.5mpg

and 152g/km.

The RAV4 Hybrid falls into VED tax band C, so owners will pay nothing for the first year registration. Toyota talks of owners saving around 12% in BIK tax payments over an equivalent diesel model, a saving of £2,287 for a 20% UK tax payer. Plus of course you'll be using cheaper green pump fuel. As for residual values in the range overall, well these have always been good for RAV4 buyers, in most cases bearing comparison with the models from premium brands and there's little reason to doubt that they'll only improve this time round.

Summary

The changes Toyota has made in refining this fourth generation RAV4 have been welcome. The car now has the more distinctive look it always needed, plus infotainment and safety has been brought up to

speed. The important news though, lies in the introduction of hybrid power, still a rare thing in the compact SUV segment. No other brand has more experience with this kind of engine - and that shows with the installation here.

The petrol/electric variant gives you the useful option of AWD and once you've added up all the fuel and CO2 figures, it probably won't cost you any more to run in the real world. Something to think about. In a car worth thinking about.

Facts at a glance

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CO2 EMISSIONS: [2.0 D-4D]
124g/km
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Thursday, July 7, 2016

Motors - first for used cars

Used Car Road Test

by Jonathan Crouch



Best SEAT in the house







'ENJOYNEERING' is one of those marketing buzzwords that manufacturers come up with that seemed a good idea at the time. Despite its rather cringe-inducing qualities, it's actually not a bad stab at describing what Spanish maker SEAT sets out to create when it brings us a new car. Something well engineered: but with a bit of extra Latin sparkle. Something like the vehicle we look at here as a used proposition, the improved 2012 to 2015 version of the Iberian brand's fourth generation Ibiza supermini The 'beautifully engineered' bit

isn't difficult to believe. SEAT's position within the Volkswagen Group means that this car shares the same hi-tech underpinnings and engines as its close compact cousins. Volkswagen's Polo and Skoda's Fabia. Both are solidly impressive superminis - but Latin sparkle? Here's what to look for when choosing a used Ibiza from

The History
The 'Sociedad Espanola de Automoviles de Turismo' - or

'SEAT' as we better know it - is well used to injecting a little life into the mainstream market. Its '600' model. launched in 1957, is the fun little runabout credited with putting Spain on wheels, over a million being sold to bronzed Iberians in just eleven years. Only when Volkswagen took control of the brand in 1986 though, did its appeal start to spread to the rest of Europe, with the Ibiza supermini the sales spearhead. The MK4 model, launched in 2008, was generally acknowledged as the company's most competitive proposition yet. A few years on though and with

toughening small car competition, it was clear that a bit of a re-think might be needed to keep this fourth generation design current. Perhaps a sharper look, a bit of extra running cost efficiency and an added touch of hi-tech would do the trick?

All were duly delivered by the improved model we look at here launched in the spring of 2012. Prices were lower than before to make the car more competitive, and more efficient engines were intro-duced, most notably the 1.4 TSI petrol unit that featured ACT cylindercut technology. These changes helped propel SEAT to its best year ever, the Ibiza finally starting to punch its weight in the range. SEAT introduced the fire-breathing Cupra hot hatch variant in November 2012 and followed it with an FR Edition model in April 2014. A further updated Ibiza range was introduced in mid-2015

What To Look For The Ibiza doesn't throw up too much in terms of issues. Corrosion is simply not an issue with SEATs and another reason why resale val-ues are high. The alloy wheels on the Cupra models are very prone to kerb rash and look for crash damage and tired tyres. Check that the electronic systems work as adver-tised as there have been a few minor owner grumbles about warning lights spuriously appearing and then disappearing. There are quite a few 'Cat C' and 'Cat D' repaired write-offs at the lower end of the market, so if you see an Ibiza that looks too good to be true, chances are it's had a prang.

On The Road

What is it about this car? It ought to drive just like a comparable Volkswagen Polo or Skoda Fabia The underpinnings, after all, are just the same. Yet somehow, it doesn't. Perhaps the sportier styl-ing and more dynamic brand image that this SEAT has lead you to push it that little bit harder, revealing unexpected handling talent that a Fabia or a Polo could also offer if

only given the chance. Maybe. But if it's not instantly apparent why an entry-level Ibiza can offer a sportier drive than the class norm, we can at least elaborate on the rea sons why the sportier variants further up the range really relish a good flogging. Go for a model with more than 100bhp and it'll also come with a clever XDS electronic differential lock which will help you get the power down more quick-ly out of tight corners, dialling out understeer and firing you from bend to bend.

On the road in an ordinary Ibiza, the surprise is just how much enjoyment is on offer from this bright and lively car. A petrol vari-

ant turns responsively into corners. though the more nose-heavy turbo diesels aren't quite as willing to quickly change direction. All derivatives though, handle with big car flu-ency, taking bumps in their stride. And they're pretty enjoyable to punt around town too, once you get used to the rather restricted rear view out thanks to hefty rear pillars that'll make seeking out an example fitted with parking sensors worthwhile. The Ibiza's a car where you don't need to spend a fortune to have fun.

Overall

The fourth generation SEAT Ibiza is one of those cars that was tweaked and fettled until it really came good. It helped that the basic design was right but this model really only got into its stride after the 2012 model update, when new engines and a smarter interior were added to the mix.

As a used buy, this refreshed MK4 model Ibiza is good value for money. Ideally, we'd want one of the rare 1.4 TSI ACT engines, but if funds didn't permit that, base 1.2-litre petrol and diesel variants make a lot of sense too. Spanish flair on a budget? That's about the size of it.





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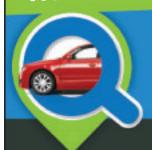
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Thursday, July 7, 2016

Motors - first for new cars

New Car Launch Model Of The Week

by Jonathan Crouch



A Beetle with attitude







VOLKSWAGEN hopes to reinvigorate the lifestyle appeal of its Beetle with this trendy Dune version. It gets a higher ride height and more eye-catching looks and comes in fixed-top 'Coupe' and Cabriolet guises. It's a bit of fun - with a little practicality still thrown in.

Background

The Volkswagen Beetle is renowned as an automotive style icon with, perhaps, the most wellknown silhouette of any modern car. Original Beetles have been modified in small numbers over the years to suit specialist drivers requirements and among the most famous of these are the 'Baja Bugs vividly associated with west coast America. Now the spirit of those original conversions has been rekindled in the modern Beetle range with this model, the Beetle Dune

Engineered and styled to pay tribute to those off-road heroes, and with a ride height raised by 10mm compared with the standard car, the Beetle Dune is designed to offer a more vibrant dimension to the existing Beetle line-up.

Driving Experience
Let's cut to the chase. No. this car doesn't offer quite as good an overall ride and handling package as you'll find in the Golf, but to compare these two cars is an irrelevance.

You'll buy a Beetle Dune because it's a bit of fun and because there aren't too many compromises required in doing so. And that's all a million miles from the dull, sensible practi-

cality of Golf motoring. Fixed-top 'Coupe' and Cabriolet Dune buyers get a choice of two engines, a 105PS 1.2-litre TSI petrol unit and a 150PS 2.0 TDI diesel. In both cases, there's the choice of either manual or automatic trans-mission. The 1.2-litre petrol variant makes 62mph in 10.9s en route to 112mph,while the 2.0 TDI improves that showing to 8.9s and 126mph, courtesy of Justier pulling power, there's 340Nm of torque.

Design and Build

Beetle Dune customers have a choice of Coupe or Cabriolet versions and a selection of five body colours complement the car's eye catching styling. Parts of the dash and door panels also share the exte rior body colour. The rugged looks are enhanced via 18-inch 'Mythos' alloy wheels, front and rear wheelarch extensions and bolder bumper designs. The intended more adventurous character is further emphasised by a large silver-framed central air inlet and a black honeycomb grille. In profile, the black wheel well and body extensions contrast with the paint colours. In addition, black side trim strips - stylised

'Beetle running boards' - and 'Dune' badging underscore what Volkswagen hopes is a more dynamic image. At the rear, there's a large spoiler and smart LED lights

Market and Model

Expect to pay somewhere in the £21,500 to £25,500 bracket for 'Coupe' fixed-top versions of this Beetle Dune: there's a premium of around £3,000 to pay if you want the Cabriolet version. That means you'll have to find a premium of around £2,500 over the standard Beetle model in 'Design' trim - the car this one is based upon.

Still, you get a lot of equipment for that. Among the highlights is the Composition Media system which includes a 6.5-inch touch-screen with Bluetooth telephone connection, a DAB digital radio receiver, a dash-mounted single CD player, an MDI (Multi Device Interface) that works via a USB connection, SMS messaging functionality and eight speakers. Standard-fit technology also includes a Light and Sight pack comprising an auto dimming rearview mirror, plus automatic head-lights and rain sensing wipers, while convenience is enhanced by ultrasonic parking sensors front

As with all Beetles, buyers also get Climatic semi-automatic air conditioning that also cools the glovebox.

a trip computer, power heated mirrors, electric windows and a hillholder clutch to stop you from drifting backwards on uphill junctions.

Cost of Ownership

Sensible virtues probably won't be top of your agenda in selecting a Beetle Dune, but should they hap pen to be, then you'll need to be talk-ing to your dealer about the 150PS 2.0-litre TDI diesel version, as it comes with all of Volkswagen's cleverest 'BlueMotion Technology' effi-ciency tweaks: low rolling resistance tyres, a battery regeneration system and a stop start system that cuts the engine when you don't need it in traffic or at the lights. As a result, it'll emit just 118g/km of carbon dioxide in manual Coupe form and can return around 65mpg on the combined cycle which will give a usefully long operating range from the 55-litre fuel tank.

As for the petrol models, well the entry-level 1.2 TSI manages over 50mpg on the combined cycle and 126g/km in Coupe guise. And residual values? Well, for the time being a Beetle is fashionable again - and that means this car will hold onto the money you've paid very wellbetter probably than a comparable Golf. Whether that'll continue to be the case long term will probably depend upon the vagaries of fash

If there was a danger of Volkswagen's Beetle getting forgot-ten in the lifestyle compact hatch market, this Dune version should remind potential buyers that it still has plenty to offer. Yes, there's a premium to pay for its trendier look. but potential buyers may not mind that if the fashionable changes hit the right note.

It's a bit of fun - just as Beetle motoring should be.

Facts at a glance

CAR: Volkswagen Beetle Dune PRICES: £21.300-£28.235 INSURANCE GROUPS: TBC CO2 EMISSIONS: 118-129g/ km

PERFORMANCE: [2.0 TDI] 0-62mph 8.9s / top speed 126mph [est] FUEL CONSUMPTION: [2.0 TDI] (combined) 61.4mpg [est] STANDARD SAFETY

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